GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3301
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
MARINE SURVEY BY GSI
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the marine surveys conducted by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in the country particularly in the East Coast during the last three years;

(b) the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to upgrade the capabilities of GSI for sea-bed mining during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) : Geological Survey of India has carried out seabed surveys in Arabian sea, Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea within the Economic Exclusive Zone (EEZ) including territorial waters with a view to prepare geological, geophysical and geomorphological maps of the seabed, identification of potential areas of non-living resources of the seabed, evaluation of heavy mineral placer deposits and geotechnical investigations for development of ports, harbours, offshore structure, etc. About 95% of the seabed within EEZ of India has been surveyed on reconnoitary scale and zones of lime mud, phosphate-rich sediments, micro-manganese nodules, calcareous sediments and indications of hydrocarbons identified.

The major offshore survey work conducted by GSI in the East Coast during the last three years are as follows :-

- Seabed surveys to study the spatial altitude and disposition of the northern buried part of 85(E ridge in Bay of Bengal.
- Mapping of seabed within Territorial Waters off Orissa, Andhra & Tamil Nadu coasts and in Ganga delta along West Bengal.
- Detection of shoreline changes and offshore bar migration in Sundarban deltaic/ estuarine environment using satellite remote sensing data.
- Seabed surveys for evaluation of placer bearing sands within Territorial Waters off Andhra coast.
- Placer Mineral Investigation in the Territorial Waters off Orissa.
- Geotechnical investigations off Nizampatnam, Machilipatnam, Bheemumpatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Ganjam, Sonapurapela in Orissa,
- Survey around Haldia for Calcutta Port Trust under GSI-CPT agreement.

(b) : The surveys resulted in delineation of :-

- Heavy mineral sands comprising ilmenite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite, monazite and garnet off coasts of Orissa & Andhra,
- High grade lime mud deposit in water depth of 100-200m off Andhra Pradesh,
- Oolites, calcareous sands in water depth of 60-200m off Andhra and Tamil Nadu coasts,
- Calcareous sediments in water depth of 1000m west of Andaman Nicobar Group of Islands,
- Indication of phosphatic material off Chennai coast, &
- Location of a Submarine ridge west off Barren Island.

(c) : Geological Survey of India does not undertake any mining activity. Government proposes to upgrade the capabilities of GSI for marine survey and exploration.

(d) : It is proposed to replace GSI`s ageing research vessel R.V. Samudra Manthan of 1958 vintage with a new blue water research vessel with onboard state-of-the-art navigation, survey and scientific equipment to upgrade the survey and exploration capabilities of GSI in the offshore areas.